

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9 and 14-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2-3, 6 and 10-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,327,237 (Baden). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because Baden fails to teach or suggest every element of the claimed invention.

For example, claims 5 and 9 set forth recesses which have an arc-shape when viewed from the radial direction of the retainer. In contrast, the alleged Baden recesses 15, 16 have a rectangular shape (*see* Baden Figs. 2 and 5).

Additionally, claims 5 and 9 set forth a pocket surface which is machined with a milling tool member. Milling is a processing method in which a tool is forwarded while rotating. When the roller bearing is machined as set forth in claims 5 and 9, burrs are not generated. Therefore, a device consistent with claims 5 and 9 does not have burrs. In contrast, Baden teaches a retainer with a pocket surface formed by broaching. For example, on lines 29-33 of the third column, Baden teaches that the pocket surface 28 (*see* Fig. 2) is formed with a tool 21, which is shown in Figs. 6 and 7 as a broaching tool. Broaching is a processing method in which a tool is drawn through a work and causes burrs. Accordingly, because Baden uses broaching to form the pocket, Baden would have burrs. Therefore, a device consistent with claims 5 and 9 does not have burrs, while the Baden device would have burrs which would later need to be machined off. At least because Baden lacks recesses with an arc-shape when viewed in the radial direction, and would have burrs, claims 5 and 9 are allowable over Baden.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baden. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the following arguments.

A) Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 16 and 20

Similarly to claims 5 and 9, claims 1, 7 and 8 set forth recesses which have an arc-shape when viewed from the radial direction of the retainer and a pocket surface which is machined with a milling tool member. As discussed above, the alleged Baden recesses 15, 16 have a rectangular shape. Also, because the Baden pocket is broached, it would have burrs, unlike the device of claims 1, 7 and 8 which have pockets formed by machining with a milling tool. Even if it were appropriate to modify Baden to include a chamfer at a boundary of the pillar and an inside or outside diameter of the retainer, Baden would still lack recesses with an arc-shape and would still have burrs caused by broaching. Accordingly, claims 1, 7 and 8 are allowable over Baden.

Claims 4, 16 and 20 depend from claims 1, 5 and 9 respectively and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency. Claim 2 has been canceled, rendering its rejection moot.

B) Claims 15 and 17-19

The Examiner asserts that Baden teaches each element of claims 15 and 17-19 except for a roller run-out portion being greater than 0.75 times the length of the roller, and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add such a feature to Baden. Claims 15 and 17-19 depend from claim 1 and 7-9 respectively. Even if the Examiner's assertion that it

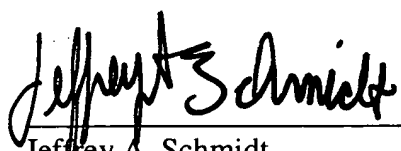
would have been obvious to modify Baden to have a roller run-out portion greater than 0.75 times the length of the roller were correct, Baden would still lack an arc-shaped recess and a pocket formed by a milling tool. Therefore, even if the Examiner's modification were appropriate, Baden still would not teach each and every element of claims 15 and 17-19, and claims 15 and 17-19 would still be allowable over Baden.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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